

Appl. No. 10/527,737
Art Unit: 1655
Response dated January 26, 2007
Reply to Office action of December 26, 2006

In the Claims:

Please enter the following amended claims in the application. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (Previously presented): A method comprising:

(a) providing a preparation comprising at least one substance which effects a modulation of one or more dermal/epidermal junction components selected from the group consisting of plectin/HD1, entactin/nidogen, perlecan and combinations thereof; and

(b) applying the preparation to a substrate selected from the group consisting of skin, scalp, mucous membrane and combinations thereof.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises a plant extract.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the plant extract is obtained from a plant selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol,

Appl. No. 10/527,737

Art Unit: 1655

Response dated January 26, 2007

Reply to Office action of December 26, 2006

cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation comprises two or more substances which effect a modulation of one or more dermal/epidermal junction components selected from the group consisting of plectin/HD1, entactin/nidogen, perlecan and combinations thereof.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises two or more plant extracts obtained from plants selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 13, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation further comprises a component having anti-protease activity.

Appl. No. 10/527,737

Art Unit: 1655

Response dated January 26, 2007

Reply to Office action of December 26, 2006

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of UV protection factors, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation comprises a *Ruscus aculeatus* root extract, a *Centella asiatica* extract, a *Calendula officinalis* flower extract, and a *Aesculus hippocastanum* extract and a *Hibiscus esculentus* extract.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 22, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, panthenol, a hydrolyzed yeast protein, ammonium glycyrrhizate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises a hydrolyzed *Hibiscus esculentus* extract.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): A cosmetic preparation comprising: (a) at least one substance which effects a modulation of one or more dermal/epidermal junction components selected from the group consisting of plectin/HD1, entactin/nidogen, perlecan and combinations thereof; and (b) a component selected from the group consisting of UV protection factors, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 25, wherein the at least one substance comprises a plant extract.

Appl. No. 10/527,737

Art Unit: 1655

Response dated January 26, 2007

Reply to Office action of December 26, 2006

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 26, wherein the plant extract is obtained from a plant selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 25, wherein the at least one substance comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): A cosmetic preparation comprising two or more plant extracts obtained from plants selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (Currently amended): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 29, wherein the two or more plant extracts comprise a *Ruscus aculeatus* root extract, a *Centella asiatica* extract, a *Calendula officinalis* flower extract, ~~and~~ a *Aesculus hippocastanum* extract and a *Hibiscus esculentus* extract.

Claim 31 (New): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 27, wherein the plant extract is obtained from *Hibiscus esculentus*.